DC/MARVEL

ACCESS

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PART FOUR OF FOUR

BY MARZ, GUICE & RUBINSTEIN

STARRING X-MEN & JLA

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IF I SHOWED YOU MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, IT'D TELL YOU MY NAME IS *AXEL ASHER*. AXEL'S AN OLD *FAMILY* NAME, DANISH ANCESTRY.

BUT MY *OTHER* NAME, THE ONE I'M STILL GETTING USED TO, IS *ACCESS*.

IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY, BUT I ACT AS A *DOORWAY* BETWEEN UNIVERSES.

AND FOR THE MOST PART, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A *CLOSED* DOORWAY. MY JOB IS TO KEEP THE UNI-VERSES *SEPARATE*.

BUT JUST NOW, IT'S NOT *WORK-ING OUT* LIKE THAT. IF *ANYTHING*...

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I MIGHT'VE MADE MATTERS WORSE.

I SAID...

...LET HIM GO.

DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN.

I BROUGHT SUPERMAN AND THE REST OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO THIS UNIVERSE...

...TO DOCTOR STRANGE'S MANSION...

I DON'T THINK SO.

NOT UNTIL WE FIND OUT EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.

...TO EVEN UP THE SIDES AFTER BISHOP AND THE X-MEN PICKED A FIGHT WITH BATMAN.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S NOT REAL THRILLED TO SEE A PAIR OF GUNS POINTED AT BATMAN.

SO I END UP IN THE MIDDLE, TRYING TO KEEP A STANDOFF FROM TURNING INTO A BRAWL.

EVERYBODY STAY CALM.

WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE HERE.

EASE UP, BISHOP. I DON'T WANT THE SITUATION GETTING OUT OF HAND IF WE CAN HELP IT.

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO TURN HIM LOOSE? CYCLOPS, WE CAN'T GIVE UP THE ONE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE WE--

--HGF!

SCOTT?

I DON'T SEE THAT THERE'S ANY CHOICE NOW, ORORO.

BISHOP!

I DON'T...

...I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S...

WAIT!

DON'T DO THIG!

HERE THEY COME!

THEY WERE JUST SUCKERING US!

YOU BEAT ME THE FIRST TIME, BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

:NGH:

HOW DID EVERY-THING GET SO OUT OF CONTROL?

I'M SUPPOSED TO STOP THE UNIVERSES FROM COMING TOGETHER, KEEP THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE FROM RETURNING.

BUT IT SEEMED LIKE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SOMEBODY WANTED TO HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE FROM THIS UNIVERSE...

KRAK!

ZAK!

... LIKE VENOM AND THE SCORPION, STARTED APPEARING IN THE OTHER ONE.*

*ALL ACCESS #1 & #2

I'M SURE IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH DOCTOR STRANGE, EVEN THOUGH HE'S CONVINCED OTHERWISE.

I HAD NO WISH TO FIGHT YOU THEN, AND I DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT YOU NOW.

THE X-MEN REFUSED TO BELIEVE ME AFTER PHOENIX PROBED STRANGE'S MIND AND FOUND NOTHING SUSPICIOUS.

SO WHAT ARE YOU CALLED? FROSTY? ICEMAN?

BUT BATMAN TRUSTED ME ENOUGH TO BACK ME UP.

:HFF!:

AH'LL PUT THAT HOOK SOMEWHERE YA'LL WON'T LIKE!

AND NOW THIS IS WHAT IT'S COME TO.

:GUH!:

LOOKING LIKE THAT MAYBE YOU'RE A MUTANT, BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME!

HOW AM I EVER GOING TO GET IT STOPPED?

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, DOCTOR STRANGE?

ZAKT!

DOCTOR--? YOU OKAY?

I CAN FEEL... SOMETHING ...TRYING TO...

...NO, YOU WERE...

...mmFFF:-

...WE NEED YOU!

DOC?!

HEY, COME ON...

PERFECT.

WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG?

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, BRINGING A TEEN-AGED GIRL INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS MESS?

DID IT MAYBE OCCUR TO YOU...

:AHH!:

...THAT I BROUGHT THEM HERE?

JERK.

NOT NEAR ENOUGH ROOM FOR ME TO MANEUVER IN HERE...

:OOMF!:

BWUMP!

...SO AH HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, CAPTAIN HOOK, IF WE TAKE THIS...

CHINESE AMERICAN

"...OUTSIDE!"

SKRAA

SH!

EEEEEEE!

THAT WAS MING!

MY GOD, WE'RE RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM HER PARENTS' RESTAURANT!

IF THIS THING IS SPILLING OUT ONTO BLEECKER STREET, SHE MIGHT BE CAUGHT UP IN IT!

MAYBE I CAN'T STOP WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HERE...

...BUT NO WAY AM I LETTING MING GET HURT BECAUSE OF IT.

WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

UFF!

MING, COME WITH ME. WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

AXEL?

AXEL?

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? AND...

...WOW...

...WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

PLEASE, I JUST WANT TO GET YOU TO SOMEPLACE SAFE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS.

MAKE TIME.

I'M NOT ... I'M...

...ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I CAN. SEE, THERE ARE...

AGH!

AXEL, WHAT IS THIS? I WAS LOCKING UP AND THOSE TWO MEN CRASHED THROUGH THE FRONT WINDOW!

LET'S JUST GO, MING.

AXEL, NO...

...STOP!

" UM, LOOK YOU VE SEEN HEROES LIKE SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL IN THE DAILY BUGLE, RIGHT? OR ON TV?

"RIGHT NOW, THAT SPOOKY MANSION ACROSS THE STREET HAS ABOUT A DOZEN OF THEM NS DE

". AND FOR THE MOST PART, THEY'RE BEAT NG THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF EACH OTHER

" THESE ARE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL PEOPLE. M NG IF THEY RE NOT STOPPED. T'S GOING TO BE L KE A WAR ZONE AROUND HERE.

"AND THAT'S NOT THE BIGGEST DAN- GER THE REAL THREAT S WELL IT'S ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE IS WHAT. T'S, MUCH LARGER

"I REALLY CAN T TELL YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT "

..SO WILL YOU PLEASE GET AWAY FROM HERE NOW?

ME? WHAT ABOUT YOU?

AXEL. THERE S A LOT YOU'RE NOT TELL NG ME ISN'T THERE ? YOU RE INVOLVED N THIS SOMEHOW!

IF IT'S SO DANGEROUS, WHY ARE N'T YOU COM NG WITH ME?

I CAN'T

I M NEEDED

COME ON, GET MOVING! T'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD

AXEL, DON'T YOU DARE SEND ME--

JUST GO!

PLEASE

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU, AXEL

TH S PROBABLY BLOWS IT W TH MING FOR GOOD.

BUT AT LEAST SHE LL BE SAFE

AS MUCH AS I MIGHT WANT TO, I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT GOING AFTER HER

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO GET BACK IN THERE .

AND REDIRECT IT!

OWFF!

GO AFTER HIM MAKE SURE HE S DOWN

ALREADY ON MY WAY!

I LL GO HELP STORM WITH--

WHUM

--GHH!

YOU D BE BETTER OFF CONCENTRATING ON HELPING YOURSELF

YOUR STRENGTH SHATTERS DOORWAYS, BUT NOT -

KRAK

--GODDESS!

GREAT HERA!

THIS IS A HOUSE OF MAD SECRETS!

I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT AGA'N

...nnnhh...

BUT I WILL IF I HAVE TO

CONVINCE YOUR FR.ENDS TO END THIS BRAWL IF THERE'S REALLY SOME THREAT HERE, WE NEED TO START WORK'NG TOGETHER

WE WILL..

AS SOON AS YOU CALL OFF YOUR FRIENDS

SCOTT?

HOLD ON, I'LL--

UNLEASH YOUR PSION C ABIL'TIES AGA'NST SOMEONE ELSE?

I'M AFRA D NOT

YOU STILL THINK DOCTOR STRANGE IS BEHIND IT SOMEHOW?

HE SURE DOESN'T LOOK VERY DANGEROUS AT THE MOMENT.

DON'T WORRY THE X-MEN AREN'T KILLERS

:gkkk:

YA'LL ARE JUST GONNA WAKE UP WITH A HEADACHE

I'LL GET THE KID OFF YOUR BACK, AQUAMAN

THAT'S ONE THEORY

I'VE GOT ANOTHER THAT SAYS YOU GET TO EXPERIENCE AN ICE AGE

ICE? WHAT ICE? ALL I SEE IS

WATER?

SPWOOSH!

REFRESHING..

ISN'T IT?

HE COLLAPSED WHEN THE FIGHT BROKE OUT IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THERE WAS A REASON

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK

CHUP!

:UKK!:

NO UP, NO DOWN....

, NO SENSE OF BALANCE .

GRAB THE ROPE! I LL PULL YOU BACK!

MY THANKS, AMAZON AND MY BEWILDER-MENT.

WHY RESCUE ME?

WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO BE OPPONENTS

I SEE NO REASON WE CAN'T CHOOSE TO BE FRIENDS.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

LET GO OF ME! HE'S MY HUSBAND!

HE'S MY--

WAIT SOME TH NG'S

ALL OF A SUDDEN. I M SENSING SOME-THING WRONG. ,

JUBILEE, ARE YOU SEEING THIS? WHAT S HAPPENING TO HIM?

IT'S HIM

DOCTOR STRANGE FATE

SORCERER, PSYCHIC, THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE

HE CONSIDERED HIMSELF AMALGAM'S PROTECTOR. HE WAS WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO PRESERVE HIS UNIVERSE...

AND THAT INCLUDED DESTROYING ME

I DOUBT HE'LL STOP AT ANYTHING LESS THAN TIME

HE MUST'VE BEEN HIDDEN IN DOCTOR STRANGE'S SUBCONSCIOUS. HE USED DOC TO SHIFT PEOPLE FROM ONE UNIVERSE TO THE OTHER...

TRY NG TO PAVE THE WAY FOR AMALGAM'S RETURN

BUT WHERE IS DOCTOR STRANGE?

GONE

AS YOU AND YOUR UNIVERSES SHALL BE

ACCESS WAS RIGHT, SCOTT THE STRANGEFATE ASPECT WAS CONCEALED FROM EVEN MY DETECTION!

I COMPLETELY MISSED IT, MAYBE BECAUSE HE'S NOT REALLY PART OF THIS UN VERSE

CAN HE DO WHAT HE SAYS? MERGE THE UNIVERSES?

WITH THE KIND OF POWER HE HAS, HE'S CAPABLE OF IT HE'S CAPABLE OF ALMOST A[redacted]--

IS THAT... DOCTOR STRANGE?

LOOKS MORE LIKE DOCTOR FATE WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

WHAT'S HAPPENING

'S THE REBIRTH OF THE UN VERSE I FA LED ONCE TO PRESERVE I WON'T FAIL AGAIN

I CLUNG TO A SHADOW EXISTENCE WITHIN THE SORCERER UNTIL I HAD STRENGTH AND OPPORTUNITY TO BANISH HIM AND TAKE PHYSICAL FORM

NOW NOTHING ANY OF YOU DO CAN STOP ME I WILL RESHAPE THIS WORLD THIS UNIVERSE ..

STARTING HERE!

I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE! HE'S BRING NG BACK AMALGAM

.. STARTING WITH HIS SANCTUM!

WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOU ATTEMPT

IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK!

AH

MY BUILDING BLOCKS ARRIVE

YOU W LL BE THE FIRST OF MY AGENTS

LET THE TWO..

BECOME ONE!

BEHOLD...

AMAZON

WHAT

WHAT DID HE DO? WHERE IS DIANA?

AND ORORO. WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

THERE IS NO STORM. NO WONDER WOMAN. AT LEAST AS YOU KNOW HER. NOW THERE IS ONLY AMAZON

IN MY UNIVERSE ORORO BECAME PARADISE ISLAND'S CHAMPION AND IN ORDER TO MAKE THAT UNIVERSE A REALITY ONCE MORE, SHE WILL SERVE ME

OF COURSE

THIS IS MADNESS. YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER OF SUCCEEDING WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE X-MEN HERE TO CHALLENGE YOU!

RETURN STORM AND WONDER WOMAN TO WHAT THEY WERE!

THEY MUST NEVER RETURN IF I AM TO SURVIVE!

IN DEFENDING STRANGE-FATE, I DEFEND MY EXISTENCE, THE EXISTENCE OF EVERYTHING I KNOW

WHAM!

UNF!

WHF!

THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS ALONE AMAZON!

THE RAW MATERIAL AT HAND IS NOT WHAT I WOULD PREFER, BUT I SHALL MAKE DO THE MERGING MUST SUFFICE FOR THE MOMENT..

BECAUSE THIS CAMPAIGN HAS NEED OF SOLDIERS.

WHAT'S HE--? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

FEELS LIKE I'M BEING..

CHANGED.

WITNESS THE NEW ORDER

IT'S [illegible]

FOR THE SAME FATE AWAITS EACH OF YOU.

HE'S GOING TO MERGE THEM

HE'S GOING TO BUILD HIS UNIVERSE STARTING WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE X-MEN

THEY'LL ALL BE STRANGEFATE'S PAWNS..

LEAVING ONLY ME TO STOP HIM AND WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY DO.

..AGAINST THEM?

TAKE HIM

THIS WON'T BE LIKE LAST TIME BOY NO ESCAPES, NO HIDDEN KEYS, NO SECRETS. THIS TIME

NO!

I WIN.

THE SORCERER IS GONE IN A MOMENT YOU WILL BE NO MORE THE ONE UNIVERSE WILL BE RESURRECTED. AND NEVER AGAIN SPLIT ASUNDER

YOU NO LONGER HAVE A PURPOSE, GATEKEEPER

FAREWELL

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU..

I THINK I'D RATHER JOIN DOC

Oh.

GOD

THIS S. THIS IS

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS I'D BE AWED IF I WASN'T SO BUSY TRYING NOT TO PUKE.

I WANTED TO FIND DOCTOR STRANGE, BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED.

STRANGEFATE SA'D HE "BANISHED" DOC, MEANING HE DIDN T KILL H M I FIGURE DOC S THE ONE PERSON WITH A CHANCE OF DEFEATING STRANGEFATE

BUT ONLY IF I CAN FIND H.M AND BRING H.M BACK MY TRANSPORTATIONAL EFFECT SHOULD'VE DELIVERED ME TO DOC ONCE I FOCUSED MY MIND ON HIM

AT LEAST I FOUND OUT I M NOT LIMITED TO ONE UNIVERSE OR THE OTHER I CAN GO ANYWHERE, EVEN WELL, HERE.

BUT NO SIGN OF DOCTOR STRANGE

ABOUT THE ONLY PLUS IS THAT EVERYTHING SEEMS RELATIVELY HARMLESS, SO I DON'T~

GAHH!

LET ME

GO!

THAT WAS JUST A REFLEX ZAP! NO THAT TH NO AWAY LIKE THAT

DON T EVEN KN W WHERE I SENT T

WHATEVER IT WAS

THAT CREAT RE IS K N WAS A M NDLESS ONE

HUH?

AND YOU D T WELL TO AVO T ALCESS

DOCTOR STRANGE! OU ARE HERE

WHAT DO U MEAN "PHASING"?

YOU WEREN'T HERE A MINUTE AGO WERE YOU?

STRANGE FATE S NSING ME TO CAREEN FR M ONE DIMENSION TO ANOTHER NEVER PAUS NG FOR M RE THAN A MOMENT

NEVER ALLOW NG ME TIME ENOUGH TO EFFECT AN ESCAPE

WHY'D HE GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE? WHY NOT JUST GET RID OF YOU FOR GOOD?

HE CAN'T DARE

I AM A PART OF HIM A COM PONENT OF WHAT HE IS I BEL EVE HE S AFRAID F DEST Y N- NG ME FOR FEAR OF DESTROYING HIMSELF

FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST

STRANGE FATE HAS MPO SONED MY ASTRAL FORM AND SENT T PHASING THR UGH THE NTER AC DIMENSIONS

WHILE HE USES MY FLESH-AND-BLOOD BODY FOR H S OWN PURPOSES

SO THAT MEANS YOU CAN STOP H M IF YOU CAN GET TO HIM?

IT MEANS I CAN TRY.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

TH S STUFF DOESN'T LOOK ALL THAT STURDY I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET YOU OUT OF-

DON'T!

OW!

IT'S ALIVE!

THIS PRISON WON'T BE BREACHED BY ANY METHOD YOU COULD EMPLOY

PERHAPS YOU CAN BRING ANOTHER MYSTIC TO HELP I KNOW OF A SHAMAN, MICHAEL TWO YOUNG MEN.

LAST TIME I WENT THAT ROUTE I JUST ENDED UP MAKING THINGS WORSE. I LL HANDLE TH S

..MYSELF

BY SHARING MY CAGE? LIKELY YOU'VE SUCCEEDED ONLY IN IMPRISON-ING YOURSELF

STRANGEFATE MAY HAVE OTHER WARDS N PLACE PREVENT-ING YOU FROM TRANSPORTING OUT AGAIN

MAYBE..

BUT I M BETTING AGAINST IT STRANGEFATE S ARROGANT ENOUGH NOT TO CONS DER ME A THREAT

HE NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET AWAY FROM HIM MUCH LESS F ND YOU

LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET JS BACK TO REALITY..

"... WHATEVER REALITY'S WAITING FOR US."

AND THOUGH HE NO LONGER POSSESSES THE MEANS TO UNDO MY PLANS, I WANT HIM REMOVED.

HE HAS NO PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE TO COME. YOUR FIRST TASK, MY AGENTS, IS TO FIND HIM SO THAT HE--

--WHO?

YOU'VE STOLEN MY BODY, MY HOUSE, MY FRIENDS.

"THE ONE WHO IS THE ACCESS SLIPPED AWAY..."

MY UNIVERSE

I WANT THEM BACK

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM? WASN'T HERE YESTERDAY!

SEIZE HIM!

YOUR PUPPETS ARE OF NO CONSEQUENCE TO ME

HOW--?!

BECAUSE I M TWICE THE MYSTIC YOU ARE!

YOU'RE A SHAM WITH NO PLACE IN THIS REALITY!

AND SO I SEEK TO MAKE MY OWN!

..THIS CONFLICT IS OURS ALONE

IS THAT SUCH A CRIME? TO WANT AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE TO BE AGAIN?

COME, THEN..

WHEN THE PRICE IS THE ELIMINATION OF TWO UNIVERSES.

..YES

THE ORDER AND THE BALANCE WILL BE RESTORED!

NO!

I ONLY WANTED TO LIVE!

WHY

WHY MUST YOU...

...DO THIS?

PLEASE!

SPARE ME!

SPARE MY UNIVER--

--AAAAGH!

STRANGEFATE LIVES...

...STRANGE-FATE'S AMALGAM UNIVERSE LIVES...

...COMPLETE IN EVERY WAY...

...AND COMPLETELY CONTAINED.

I ALLOWED THE CREATION OF A SEMBLANCE OF STRANGEFATE'S REALITY WITHIN THIS VESSEL, AN EXISTENCE AS GENUINE TO THEM AS OURS IS TO US.

THIS PARTICULAR AMALGAMATION OF OUR UNIVERSES WON'T POSE A THREAT...

...AS LONG AS YOU SAFE-GUARD IT, ACCESS.

ME?

ISN'T THAT A LITTLE TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEW GUY? I MEAN, WOULDN'T YOU BE A BETTER CHOICE?

YOU BELONG TO NEITHER UNIVERSE AND YET TO BOTH. YOU ARE THE DOORWAY AS WELL AS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS IT.

THE BURDEN CAN ONLY BE YOURS.

WHOA! WHERE'D IT GO?

WITHIN YOU...

...AS IT SHOULD BE. AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL IS AGAIN AS IT SHOULD BE.

EVERY-BODY'S BACK TO NORMAL.

DOCTOR STRANGE...

...I ACCUSED YOU OF BEING THE DANGER, AND TO AN EXTENT THAT WAS TRUE. BUT YOU WERE ALSO OUR SAVIOR.

EACH OF US IS IN YOUR DEBT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR SENTIMENTS, BATMAN...

...BUT NONE OF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT ACCESS.

HEY, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING WITHOUT HELP FROM BOTH UNIVERSES.

IT'S A LOT EASIER WITH YOU GUYS WORKING TOGETHER INSTEAD OF BEING AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER.

LET'S MAKE SURE IT STAYS THAT WAY. SORRY FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING...

...UH, CYCLOPS, ISN'T IT?

IT IS.

FAREWELL TO YOU ALL.

YOU TAKE THE THANKS OF A UNIVERSE WITH YOU.

SAME TO YOU GUYS.

I'LL GET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE BACK WHERE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.

AND APOLOGIES FROM THE X-MEN AS WELL. I HOPE WE MEET UNDER BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES NEXT TIME.

THEN I'VE GOT SOMEONE TO VISIT...

"...IF SHE'LL STILL SEE ME."

YOU'RE REALLY SURPRISED I CAME BACK?

SURPRISED?

SPWAT!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOR GOOD!

OOF!

FITZ, WAIT UP!

ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE BEEN!

WHERE I'VE BEEN? BELIEVE ME...

...YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME!

SO THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT. THIS TIME IT REALLY IS OVER.

EVERYTHING'S BACK TO THE WAY IT USUALLY IS. BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING IT WON'T STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER.

AND TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

End